

Montana Laboratory Sentinel



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau
800-821-7284 www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

10/20/2010

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week: October 24- 30, 2010

Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future

Today, childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children, yet an estimated 250,000 U.S. children have elevated blood-lead levels. A simple blood test can prevent permanent damage that will last a lifetime.

CDC and HHS share the goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States. NLPPW occurs every year during the last full week in October ([Senate Resolution 199](#)). During NLPPW, CDC aims to:

- Raise awareness about lead poisoning;
- Stress the importance of screening the highest risk children younger than 6 years of age (preferably by ages 1 and 2) if they have not been tested yet;
- Highlight partner's efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning; and
- Urge people to take steps to reduce lead exposure.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/nlppw.htm>

The Montana Public Health Laboratory has the capability to perform environmental testing on water, dust wipes, and paint samples and to perform human testing on capillary and venous blood samples obtained from children and adults. Please call (800) 821-7284 if you have questions or concerns about lead poisoning.

CAP TODAY

New AST Breakpoints Bolster Fight Against Resistance

Speaking before a packed conference hall at the American Society for Microbiology annual meeting in May, leading microbiologists outlined the origin of and rationale for the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute's new recommended breakpoints for antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and ways they can be implemented in the laboratory. [Read the full article.](#)

Questions and Answers following the distribution of the CDC Dear Colleague Letter on August 18, 2010

On August 18, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distributed a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) via the Laboratory Outreach Communication System (LOCS) Advisory. The letter addressed concerns about the reporting practices used by some laboratories when low positive specimens were routinely retested with chlamydia and gonorrhea nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs). Some laboratories, in an effort to reduce false positive results, were repeating their initial low positive NAATs and if the repeat test was negative, the result was reported as negative. This may have resulted in some individuals receiving falsely negative test results.

In order to address some of the questions raised as a result of that letter's release, CDC has developed and released a series of frequently asked [Questions and Answers](#).

If you have any additional questions, please contact Susie Zanto at szanto@mt.gov or 406-444-2839.



Vivian Schaffer, Clinical Laboratory Scientist, scanning specimens for gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing

The current issue of the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Weekly Update for MMWR reporting week 40 can be found at: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/documents/CDWeeklyUpdateWk40.pdf>. This issue contains information about Lyme disease; foodborne illness investigation; and influenza prevention, diagnosis, and surveillance